

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9596

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, TU, PFOR
SUBJECT: EC-TURKISH RELATIONS: GOT ACCEPTS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
MEETING FOR DECEMBER 20.

REF: EC BRUSSELS 12371

SUMMARY: GOT HAS ACCEPTED EC PROPOSAL THAT JOINT ASSO-
CIATION COUNCIL MEETING BE HELD ON DECEMBER 20 AND FOREIGN
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MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL WILL GO TO BRUSSELS OVER THE WEEKEND.
FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE SAYS THAT WHILE GOT DOES NOT EXPECT
MUCH MOVEMENT ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC POINTS AT ISSUE WITH EC,
GOT HAS DECIDED TO USE CURRENT EC OFFER AS BASIS OF DIS-
CUSSION. GOT ACCEPTS EC'S POLITICAL "GOODWILL"
TOWARD MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH TURKEY. FURTHER-

MORE, GOT RECOGNIZES THAT ECONOMIC PRESSURES OPERATING ON EC (INCLUDING OPEC OIL-PRICE INCREASE) LIMIT FLEXIBILITY IN RESPONDING TO SPECIFIC TURKISH ECONOMIC DESIRES AND THAT GOT PRESSURES HAVE PROVED SOMEWHAT COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. CONSEQUENTLY, OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH EC, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, APPEARS TO BE OF MORE IMPORTANCE TO GOT THAN ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED TURKEY-EC RELATIONS WITH ULUC OZULKER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF EC AFFAIRS, MFA. OZULKER PRESENTATION WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO SARDAROGLU STATEMENTS DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL, EXCEPT THAT OZULKER WAS MORE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE.

3. OZULKER SAID THAT GOT RECOGNIZES THAT EC CANNOT MEET TURKISH ECONOMIC PROPOSALS. THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES EC IS FACING AND AWKWARDNESS OF SETTING EC CONSENSUS WHEN GERMANY, FOR EXAMPLE, OPPOSES CONCESSIONS ON WORKERS, ITALY ON AGRICULTURE, AND FRANCE ON INCREASING FINANCIAL PROTOCOL. GOT ALSO ACCEPTS FACT THAT IMPACT OF NEW OPEC PRICE INCREASE ON EC ECONOMIES WILL DECREASE FURTHER EC FLEXIBILITY.

4. GOT, HOWEVER, WHILE NOT EXPECTING MUCH FROM EC SIDE, HAS ACCEPTED NEED TO CONTINUE A DIALOGUE WITH THE EC. WHILE IT WOULD BE PERHAPS ACCURATE TO DESCRIBE EC-TURKISH ECONOMIC RELATIONS AS AT A "STAND-STILL", OZULKER SAID THAT, WITH TURKISH ELECTIONS AHEAD, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT GOT NOT DO ANYTHING RASH THAT MIGHT DAMAGE FUTURE RELATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, MEETING WILL FOCUS ON GETTING BOTH SIDES TO

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"ACCEPT OBLIGATIONS" WITHOUT BECOMING TOO SPECIFIC AND GIVING AMMUNITION TO TURKISH CRITICS OF EC.

5. OZULKER SAID THAT "ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS" EC HAD OFFERED IN NEW PACKAGE WERE MINIMAL:

- (A) SOME MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL QUOTA,
- (B) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIODS WHEN TURKISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CAN ENTER EC AT FAVORABLE TARIFFS, AND
- (C) SOME COMPROMISE OVER "SECOND PRIORITY" FOR TURKISH WORKERS. "SECOND PRIORITY" HOWEVER, WAS STRICTLY THEORETICAL COMPROMISE SINCE INDIVIDUAL EC COUNTRIES AT PRESENT DID NOT PERMIT ENTRY OF WORKERS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE RESIDING IN OTHER EC COUNTRIES. TURKEY EXPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT EC WILL ACCEPT "OBLIGATIONS" OF ARTICLE 12 OF ANKARA AGREEMENT, BUT BOTH SIDES MAY MUTUALLY AGREE THAT FIRST STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION COULD BE VERY "GRADUAL". EC, HOWEVER, HAS REFUSED ANY INCREASE IN FINANCIAL QUOTA.

6. EMBOFF ASKED OZULKER ABOUT 1977 GOT ANNUAL PROGRAM WHICH CIRITICIZES PHASED GOT REDUCTION IN INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMS TARIFFS AND ENLARGED LIBERALIZATION LIST FOR EC IMPORTS INTO TURKEY. OZULKER SAID STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION (WHICH PREPARES PROGRAM) HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF GOT TIES WITH EC FROM BEGINNING. IN SPITE OF SPO AND ERBAKAN CRITICISM OF TURKISH TARIFF CONCESSIONS, HE EXPECTS GOT TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS TO EC IN THIS AREA.
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